



# Rockville Reports

JANUARY 2019 • VOL. 65 #1



• FIND MORE CITY NEWS AT [WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV](http://WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV) •

## Goodbye, Rockville City Hall. Hello, Maryland House of Delegates!



Join us for a reception to thank  
**Councilmember Julie Palakovich Carr** for her years  
of service on the Mayor and Council, and celebrate  
her new role in the Maryland General Assembly, as  
the newest member of the District 17 team.

**DATE:** Monday, Jan. 7

**TIME:** 5-7 p.m.

**PLACE:** Rockville City Hall  
111 Maryland Ave.

## Rockville to Launch New, Weekly Emailed Newsletter

Now you can find more news, more often with the new "Rockville Reports" weekly email newsletter.

The newsletter will feature timely news delivered to subscribers at noon on Sundays, updating readers about what's going on in their city govern-

ment over the next seven days. The first edition will be delivered Sunday, Dec. 30.

Sign up for the new weekly email: Visit [www.rockville.md.gov/newsletters](http://www.rockville.md.gov/newsletters) and check the box next to "Rockville Reports: City News." ❖

## MLK Jr. Day Celebration to Feature Performances, Community Service

Rockville's 47th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration, from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 21 at Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive, will include multicultural performances, awards and a keynote speech by Justin Hansford, the executive director of the Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center at the Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C.

The program's theme of "Enduring Hope, Enduring Progress" will reflect on how to keep alive the hope that King instilled in generations of leaders, and appreciate and celebrate progress made during challenging times. The celebration is free and open to all ages. A reception will follow.

The ceremony will be bookended by community service activities as part of the national Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, before the program, from 9:30-11 a.m., and after the program, from 12:30-2 p.m. Attendees will be invited to donate blood, write cards of encouragement to survivors of domestic violence and visit with community organizations at information tables. Volunteers are also needed to serve as companions to seniors, accompanying them to the event and during the program. Seniors



**MLK Day keynote speaker  
Justin Hansford.**

will be provided lunch and a bus ride from the Rockville Senior Center to and from the program. At another activity, to be held the same day at 4 p.m. at Lincoln Park Community Center, 357 Frederick Ave., volunteers will prepare emergency kits for homeless families.

To register to take part in the community service activities and to learn more about the celebration, visit [www.rockville.md.gov/mlk](http://www.rockville.md.gov/mlk).

Organizers are also seeking volunteers to help with setup and cleanup on the day of the event. Student Service Learning credit is available. For more information, contact Janet Kelly at 240-314-8316 or [jkelly@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:jkelly@rockvillemd.gov). For information about accessibility, call the city's Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator at 240-314-8108. ❖

## Rockville Facilities to Close for New Year's and MLK Day

*Recycling and Trash  
Collected a Day Later  
During Holiday Weeks*

City Hall and all city facilities will be closed for New Year's Day on Tuesday, Jan. 1. City Hall and some facilities will also be closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, Jan. 21.

Recycling and trash will be collected one day later throughout those weeks. Learn more at [www.rockville.md.gov/recycling-trash](http://www.rockville.md.gov/recycling-trash).

Other city facilities will operate on the following schedule:

- Croydon Creek Nature Center is closed Mondays and will open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 2.
- Glenview Mansion is closed to the public for construction of a new Americans with Disabilities Act-accessible parking lot. Glenview offices are receiving telephone calls and emails.
- The F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre box office will be open from 2-7 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays and will be closed Jan. 1 and 21. The box office will

*continued on pg. 8...*

## Police Station Lobby Mural to be Featured in Postage Stamp U.S. Postal Service Forever Stamp Recalls Building's Past Life

In the six years since the Rockville City Police Department moved from City Hall, the department has put its stamp on its new home in the old post office at 2 W. Montgomery Ave. Now, a piece of that home will become a stamp of its own.

The mural of Sugarloaf Mountain in the station's lobby is part of the U.S. Postal Service's 2019 Forever Stamp series. It will be sold as a pane of 10 stamps depicting "five different murals designed to add a touch of beauty to Post Office walls and help boost the morale of Americans

during the era of the Great Depression," the Postal Service said in a press release.

The mural stamp was selected by the Postmaster General's Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, which recommends subjects for future stamp issuances. To learn more about the selection process, visit <https://about.usps.com/who-we-are/csac/welcome.htm>.

The oil-on-canvas mural, painted in 1938 by Judson Smith, was commissioned by the federal government as a Works Progress Administration project. It was the subject of a



2016 conservation effort to clean it and revive its colors and texture. To learn more about the conservation effort, visit [www.youtube.com/cityofrockville](http://www.youtube.com/cityofrockville) and search "Forever stamp."

For more about the history of the post office-turned-police station, visit [www.peerlessrockville.org/historic-rockville/peerless-places-2/rockvilles-old-post-office](http://www.peerlessrockville.org/historic-rockville/peerless-places-2/rockvilles-old-post-office).

rockville/peerless-places-2/rockvilles-old-post-office.

This is not Rockville's first experience with postage stamps. On Sept. 28, 1996, the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre hosted a second-day issue of a 23-cent stamp commemorating the theater's namesake. (The first-day issue was in St. Paul, Minnesota, the author's birthplace.) The event, part of citywide celebrations marking Fitzgerald's 100th birthday, was to be attended by U.S. Rep. Constance Morella, Gov. Parris N. Glendening, Montgomery County Executive Doug Duncan and Mayor Rose Krasnow, according to the October 1996 issue of "Rockville Reports." ❖

## In This Issue...

- 2** Not Junk Mail: New-Look City Advisories!
- 4** 2019 Recycling and Trash Collection Holiday Calendar.
- 5** Get to Know Rockville – Attend the City Academy.
- 6** Meet Thomas Farm Community Center's New Supervisor.
- 8** Saluting 2018 Good Neighbors.

MAYOR & COUNCIL  
111 Maryland Ave.  
Rockville, Maryland  
20850-2364

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
SUBURBAN, MD.  
PERMIT NO. 63

ECR WSS  
LOCAL  
POSTAL CUSTOMER



## Public Transit Study to Hold Workshop, Conduct Survey

Gap Analysis is Among Mayor and Council Priority Initiatives

A city study includes opportunities in January for community members to offer input about Rockville's public transit needs.

The consultant-led Transit Gap Analysis and Needs Assessment Study will assess and analyze potential needs and gaps within Rockville's existing public transit network and determine unmet demand for new or additional transit services.

A workshop for community members to help evaluate Rockville's transit needs will be held 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 29 in the Mayor and Council Chambers at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave. (In case of inclement weather, the workshop will be held Tuesday, Feb. 5 at the same time and place.)

The city's consultant is also conducting a survey about transportation issues facing city residents and workers. To take the survey, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/transit](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/transit).

Rockville is known for quality transit-oriented development. The Mayor and Council identified exploring the feasibility of a local transit service as a priority for this term, as part of their focus on planning and preservation.

## ROCKVILLE

### Survey Will Help Improve Navigation in Rockville

The City of Rockville wants members of the public to help make finding their way in the city a little easier.

Signage design firm KMA Design, of Carnegie, Pennsylvania, is developing a comprehensive wayfinding program for the city, focusing on Town Square and Rockville parks. To help create a more vibrant and intuitive signage system, the community is being asked to take a 16-question survey. The survey is available at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/MJ9RWQ9](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MJ9RWQ9).

The answers provided will help guide the project and ensure the finished product reflects the city and community's perspective.

For more information about the survey and wayfinding project, contact Faramarz Mokhtari at [fmokhtari@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:fmokhtari@rockvillemd.gov).

## Planning Commission to Review Draft of Comprehensive Plan

### Once Approved, Public Hearings to Follow

The first components of the City of Rockville's Comprehensive Plan, developed from three years of community involvement and feedback throughout the Rockville 2040 process, were delivered Dec. 12 to the city's Planning Commission.

Those components, part of an initial draft by city planning staff, consist of an introductory chapter and elements — individual chapters on 10 broad city-wide topics. The chapters include land use, transportation, environment, parks, community facilities, housing, economic development, historic preservation, water resources and municipal growth.

The initial staff draft is based on the Rockville 2040 process, which included numerous listening sessions, citywide forums, open houses and other meetings, as well as analysis and discussion with the Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission will begin its review of the draft in January to determine if it's ready for public testimony. A staff draft covering the second portion of the plan,

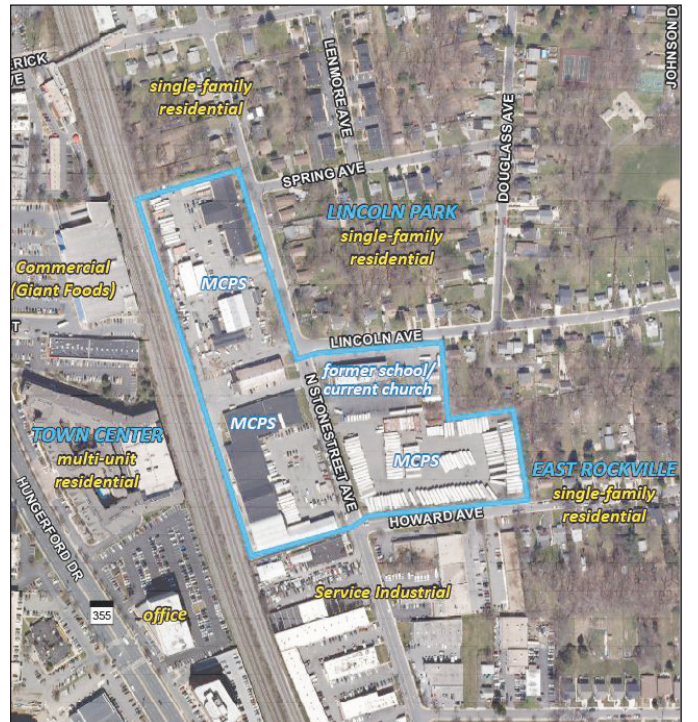


the planning areas, involving neighborhood-level issues, will be delivered to the Planning Commission at a later date.

Once the draft plan is approved by the Planning Commission for formal release, the city will hold interactive sessions with the public so community members can learn more about the draft's contents. The Planning Commission will also open the record for written testimony and set public hearing dates.

When public hearings are complete, the Planning Commission will hold work sessions to revise the plan based on community input. They will then submit the two portions of the revised draft plan to the Mayor and Council for review. The Mayor and Council are charged with approving and adopting the plan, once they have developed a final version.

For more information, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/Rockville2040](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/Rockville2040) or contact principal planner Cindy Kebba at [ckebba@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:ckebba@rockvillemd.gov) or 240-314-8233. ❖



## N. Stonestreet Ave. Plan Amendment to Come Before Mayor and Council

The North Stonestreet Avenue Comprehensive Master Plan Amendment will come before the Mayor and Council at their Monday, Jan. 14 meeting, following a recommendation from December's work session of Rockville's Planning Commission.

At the work session, planning commissioners discussed public testimony on the plan amendment, which covers the area where Montgomery County Public School facilities, the historic Lincoln High School and Crusader Baptist Church are located. The proposed plan amendment addresses one of five key opportunity areas identified in the 2018 Stonestreet Corridor Study.

The amendment promotes mixed-use development with moderate density

potential, and directs the more intense redevelopment toward North Stonestreet Avenue, away from existing single-family residences. The most compatible, purely residential uses are directed closest to the existing neighborhoods.

At the Jan. 14 Mayor and Council meeting, city staff will request a future public hearing date, tentatively scheduled for February, to allow the community an opportunity to testify on the plan amendment.

For more information, contact Andrea Gilles at [agilles@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:agilles@rockvillemd.gov) or 240-314-8273. Learn more about the 2018 Stonestreet Corridor Study at [www.rockvillemd.gov/2004/Stonestreet-Corridor](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/2004/Stonestreet-Corridor). ❖

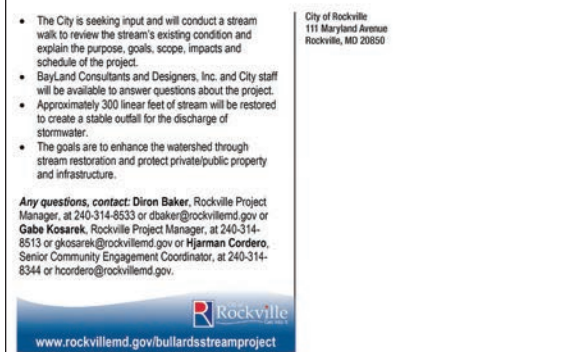
### Connect with us on Social Media.



## Look for These in Your Mailbox!

The city does not want you to miss important information about projects that may impact your community. For that reason, we have created colorful and easy-to-recognize advisories for important meetings and projects.

**IMPORTANT PROJECT:** The front will state the project name, time-frame and location, including an area map.



**BACK OF POSTCARD:** A brief description of the project, contact information for city staff or contractors and a webpage for more information.

**IMPORTANT MEETING:** The front will state the meeting's subject, date and time, and location.



**LEARN MORE ON ROCKVILLE 11**  
[www.youtube.com/cityofrockville](http://www.youtube.com/cityofrockville)



**SHOW US A SIGN, SHOW US THE LIGHT...** Drivers and pedestrians rely on streetlights and street signs to safely navigate Rockville's city streets. If you see tree limbs or other objects obstructing a streetlight or street sign, please call 240-314-8500. Notice a streetlight outage? To learn how to report it, visit <https://rockvillereports.com/problematic-streetlight-heres-how-to-report-it>.



## Mayor & Council

mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov



**Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton**  
240-314-8291  
bnewton@rockvillemd.gov



**Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg**  
240-314-8293  
bfeinberg@rockvillemd.gov



**Councilmember Virginia D. Onley**  
240-314-8294  
vonley@rockvillemd.gov



**Councilmember Julie Palakovich Carr**  
240-314-8295  
jpalakovichcarr@rockvillemd.gov



**Councilmember Mark Pierzchala**  
240-314-8292  
mpierzchala@rockvillemd.gov

**Meetings: Monday, Jan. 7, 14, 28, and Tuesday, Jan. 22 (public hearing), at 7 p.m. Visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter).**

Drop-in sessions are held monthly at 5:30 p.m. in the Mayor and Council office. No appointment necessary. Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton is joined by Councilmember Virginia D. Onley on Jan. 14.

### Get Involved with the City

Stay informed of the business before city leaders and share your thoughts:

- **Follow the action in person:** Meetings are at 7 p.m. on most Mondays, at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., or follow from home on channel 11. Meetings are also available via live streaming, and on demand the day after the meeting, at [www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11).
- **Stop by a drop-in session:** The mayor and one councilmember meet with community members one Monday each month from 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- **Speak at Community Forum** (up to three minutes): Community Forum is held during each Mayor and Council meeting. Priority is given to speakers who have signed up in advance by calling 240-314-8280 by 4 p.m. on the day of the meeting, and to those who are speaking on an agenda item.

(continued in right column...)

## FY 2018 Reports Highlight City's Finances

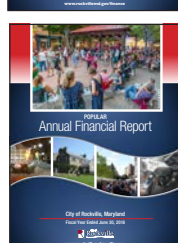
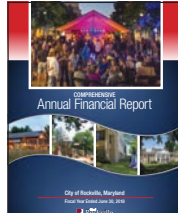
### Summaries Offer a Look at the City's Fiscal Health

Two annual reports that city staff delivered to the Mayor and Council on Dec. 10 give the public a closer look at Rockville's financial health during the most recently completed fiscal year.

For Fiscal Year 2018, which closed June 30, the city ended "with an overall net position of \$359.6 million, an increase of 3 percent over last year," City Manager Rob DiSpirito wrote in the city's Popular Annual Financial Report, a summary document highlighting the city's finances.

The city maintains a triple-A bond rating. Triple-A is the highest possible rating and saves Rockville taxpayers money by allowing the city to borrow at the lowest possible interest rates.

"Our FY 2018 revenues remained strong, mainly due to increases of \$1 million in property tax revenues and \$312,000 in use of money and property. The city's general fund reserve exceeded the FY 2018 target of \$15.9 million by over \$3.1 million, and our bond rating was reaffirmed at AAA/Aaa," DiSpirito wrote. "Moving into FY 2019, city staff will continue to address the needs of the Rockville community, and will work to implement the Mayor and Council's top priority initiatives."



The city created the first PAFR in 2007 to explain, in layman's terms, the information contained in Rockville's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. The FY18 PAFR describes:

- The city government and services.
- The city's financial structure, including governmental funds, such as the general fund and the capital projects fund, and enterprise funds.
- The overall financial health of the city.
- The city's capital investments and debt.
- Property taxes and utility rates, including how to read tax and utility bills.

The PAFR and CAFR available at [www.rockvillemd.gov/budget](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/budget). To view the presentation to the Mayor and Council, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter) and select the television icon next to the Dec. 10 meeting listing.

To learn more, call the Finance Department at 240-314-8400. ✚

## Budget Hearings and Work Sessions Set

The Mayor and Council moved a discussion of their budget priorities to their Monday, Feb. 4 meeting and set budget hearing and work session dates for March and April.

### Upcoming Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Calendar

<b>Feb. 4</b>	Mayor and Council Budget Priorities
<b>Feb. 22</b>	Release of FY 2020 Proposed Budget
<b>Feb. 25</b>	Presentation of FY 2020 Proposed Budget
<b>March 4</b>	Budget Public Hearing
<b>March 18</b>	Budget Work Session
<b>April 1</b>	Budget Public Hearing and Work Session
<b>April 29</b>	Budget Work Session
<b>May 6</b>	Adoption of FY 2020 Budget

To learn more about hearings and work sessions, find agendas when they are posted the week before each date at [www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter).

An online survey allows community members to choose their budget priorities and offer suggestions, including ideas for increasing revenue, reducing or modifying services, decreasing costs, and improving operational efficiencies. Staff will compile the online submissions and periodically submit them for the Mayor and Council's review and consideration.

For more information and to complete the budget survey, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/budget](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/budget) or call the Finance Department at 240-314-8400. ✚

## Mayor and Council to Hold Public Hearing on APFS Amendments

### School Capacity Cap Could Lead to Residential Development Moratorium

The Mayor and Council will hold a public hearing, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22 at City Hall, on possible amendments to the city's Adequate Public Facilities Standards.

One of the proposed amendments would increase the school capacity test of the Adequate Public Facilities Standards from 120 percent of program capacity up to 150 percent for two specific areas of the city, the Town Center Performance District and the South Pike area near the Twinbrook Metro station.

The potential change would avoid a potential residential development moratorium in those areas due to school capacity projections set out in Montgomery

County Public Schools' recommended Fiscal Year 2020 budget. Other options are being considered that may not modify the program capacity test, while still avoiding a potential moratorium. Another proposed amendment would change when the schools test is done for project plan applications, from the time of project plan approval to the time of site plan approval.

Based on the yet-to-be-adopted MCPS budget, school capacity in the Richard Montgomery and Walter Johnson high school clusters, as of July 1, 2019, is projected to be over the 120 percent capacity limit at the high-school level in five

continued on pg. 7...

## Mayor and Council Discuss Vacancy Process

The Mayor and Council will continue their discussion on Jan. 7 to determine the process to fill vacancies among members of the body.

At their Monday, Dec. 17 meeting, the Mayor and Council voted unanimously to clarify that the members of the Mayor and Council must continue residency in the city during their tenure in office.

They also voted to set Nov. 15 as the cutoff date that determines whether the Mayor and Council would hold a special election or votes among themselves to select a candidate to fill the vacancy. Additionally, should the vacancy be in the office of the

continued on pg. 7...

(continued from left column...)

- **Send an email** to [mayorandcouncil@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:mayorandcouncil@rockvillemd.gov).
- **Testify at a hearing** or in writing to [cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov) or by mail to the City Clerk's Office, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.
- **Volunteer** to be on a board or commission. Learn more below and find other ways to give of your time and talents at [www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer).

### Boards and Commissions

Anyone interested in serving on a board or commission may write to: Mayor and Council, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, call 240-314-8280, or fill out and submit an expression of interest form at [www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions).

Note: Meetings are held at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., unless otherwise noted.

- **Jan. 2** Sign Review Board 9 a.m.
- **Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31** Development Review Committee 9 a.m.
- **Jan. 3** Environment Commission 7 p.m.
- **Jan. 8** Human Services Advisory Commission 6:30 a.m.
- **Jan. 9** Cultural Arts Commission at Rockville Senior Center 7 p.m.
- **Jan. 9, 23** Planning Commission\* 7 p.m.
- **Jan. 15, 30** Board of Supervisors of Elections 9 a.m.
- **Jan. 16** Rockville Sister City Corporation 7 p.m.

\*Televised on Rockville 11.

### Vacancies

The Mayor and Council are seeking applicants for the following boards and commissions:

- Board of Appeals (1 reg./1 alt.)
- Compensation Comm. (5)
- Cultural Arts Commission (1)
- Historic District Commission (3 reg./1 alt.)
- Planning Commission (1)
- Rockville Housing Enterprises (1)
- Senior Citizens Comm. (4)

For more, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions) or call 240-314-8280.

### Compensation Commission Seeks Members

**Panel of 5 Recommends Salaries for Mayor and Council**

It's an opportunity to help the city you love! Five Rockville residents or business owners are invited to serve on the city's Compensation Commission, which convenes every four years, before a city election, to determine annual salaries for the city's five elected officials.

Before making a recommendation, and to help with its deliberations, the commission solicits input from city residents on various aspects

continued on pg. 6...



**STAY INFORMED:** The Mayor and Council meeting schedule and agendas can be found at [www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil). Staff reports with background information are included with the agendas, which are posted several days before each meeting.



Tree Recycling Makes the Holidays Greener

The city collects holiday trees as part of its recycling collection and takes them to the Montgomery County Recycling Center, where they become mulch.

The mulch is available year-round for free, at the center, at 16105 Frederick Road, next to the Shady Grove Processing Facility and Transfer Station.

Place trees at the curb for pickup on regular recycling and trash collection days after removing all ornaments and metals, wires, stands and decorations, including tinsel. Trees should not be bagged. There is no deadline for curbside collection of trees.

Artificial trees cannot be recycled and should be placed in the gray refuse cart for regular weekly collection. Artificial trees that are too large to fit in the cart can be collected by appointment as one of six bulk collections allowed per year, or taken to the transfer station.

For bulk refuse information, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/bulkwaste](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/bulkwaste).

Say 'Yes, Please!' for Free Trees This Spring

The City of Rockville plans to mark Earth Month in April by giving away 300 trees to celebrate its 30th consecutive year receiving a Tree City USA designation from the National Arbor Day Foundation.

The "300 for the 30th" giveaway will be from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, April 6 at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive. Rockville residents, including homeowners, homeowners' associations and nonprofits will be able to choose up to two free trees, from among a selection of large shade trees and small flowering trees. City staff will provide tree planting demonstrations and advice for caring for trees, and the city will hold a ceremony celebrating Arbor Day and three decades as a Tree City USA.

Watch for more information, including how to sign up to receive a free tree, at [www.rockvillemd.gov/environment](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/environment) and in upcoming issues of "Rockville Reports."

Procurement Division Presents Annual Report

The City of Rockville's Procurement Division presented its Fiscal Year 2018 annual report in November to the Mayor and Council, the fourth since the Mayor and Council requested a yearly accounting of the city's purchasing in 2014.

The Procurement Division is responsible for the acquisition of goods and services for City of Rockville operations.

The report covers July 1, 2017, to June 30. Among its highlights, the report showed:

- An increase in Mayor and Council awards for the Minority, Female and Disabled outreach program, from 28 percent in FY 2017 to 33 percent (about \$1.8 million) in FY 2018. Rockville's outreach to the minority-, female- and disabled-owned business community includes a presence at business events; networking with, and gathering information about, MFD vendors; and technical assistance meetings with MFD business.
- An increase in the use of the competitive procurement process, which includes invitations for bids, and a drop in the use of non-competitive procurements.

More details from the FY2018 Procurement Annual Report and the presentation to the Mayor and Council can be found in the Nov. 20 agenda packet at [www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter). To see the presentation, select the TV icon next to the meeting item.

Find out more about the Procurement Division at [www.rockvillemd.gov/procurement](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/procurement).

Efforts to Prevent Sewer Backups Keep Tax Dollars from Going Down the Drain

Rockville Staff Recognized for Efforts to Reduce Liability Claims

The City of Rockville did not pay a single dollar in liability claims due to sewer backups during the most recent fiscal year, after paying more than \$94,000 in such claims just four years earlier.

The city also cut the number of claims filed by nearly half during Fiscal Year 2018, which ended June 30.

The 45 percent reduction in liability claims saves taxpayers money and is due in large part to Rockville's Sewer Preventative Team, which meets monthly and includes representatives of the city's engineering, operations and maintenance, environmental, geographic information systems, and safety and risk management divisions.

The success story has received regional attention, with city staff presenting how it was achieved during the Local Government Insurance Trust's 31st Annual

Meeting on Nov. 1 in Annapolis. The presentation team included safety and risk manager Marcus Odorizzi; deputy director of public works Judy Ding; GIS specialist Mike Onzay and operations maintenance superintendent Steve Sokol. LGIT members include 17 counties, 143 municipalities, 22 sponsored entities, the Maryland Municipal League and the Maryland Association of Counties.

Rockville actively seeks to limit sewer backups with rigorous preventive maintenance that includes high-velocity flushing, video inspection, root sawing, sonar system testing, grease inhibitors, root growth inhibitors, and lining or replacing piping.

To learn more about what the city does to prevent and, if necessary, respond to sewer backups, visit <https://rockvillereports.com/sewer-backups-and-what-the-city-can-do-for-you>. ❖

Seeking Environmentalists to Be Recognized During Earth Month

Feb. 22 is Deadline for Nominations for Environmental Awards

The City of Rockville's Environmental Excellence Awards recognize individuals and organizations that contribute to Rockville's environmental health and sustainability.

Nominations are being accepted in the following categories through 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 22 for awards to be presented during Earth Month in April:

- Outstanding Individual Environmental Stewardship.
- Outstanding Leadership in Environmental Practices.
- Outstanding Achievement in Green Building Technology/Design.
- Outstanding Environmental Education and Academic Achievement.

Eligible individuals must live, work or study within the city. Eligible organizations must have an office in Rockville or must be able to demonstrate significant operations within the city



Earth Day

limits. Building projects considered as part of a nomination must be within the city.

The awards are presented to an individual or organization by the Mayor and Council. Nominations and supplemental materials are received by the Environment Commission, which reviews the materials and recommends awards to the Mayor and Council.

For more information about the award categories and guidelines, application forms and eligibility, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/environment/awards](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/environment/awards), email [environment@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:environment@rockvillemd.gov), or call 240-314-8870. ❖

City of Rockville Recycling and Trash Collections 2019

Holiday	2019	Collection Changes
New Year's Day	Jan. 1 (Tuesday)	Monday collections occur Monday. All other collections occur one day later than usual this week.
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Jan. 21 (Monday)	All collections occur one day later than usual this week.
Presidents Day	Feb. 18 (Monday)	All collections occur one day later than usual this week.
Memorial Day	May 27 (Monday)	All collections occur one day later than usual this week.
Independence Day	July 4 (Thursday)	Thursday collections occur Friday. No other changes this week.
Labor Day	Sept. 2 (Monday)	All collections occur one day later than usual this week.
Columbus Day	Oct. 14 (Monday)	No changes. Collections occur as usual this week.
Veterans Day OBSERVED	Nov. 11 (Monday)	All collections occur one day later than usual this week.
Thanksgiving Day	Nov. 28 (Thursday)	Thursday collections occur Friday. No other changes this week.
Christmas Day	Dec. 25 (Wednesday)	Monday and Tuesday collections occur as usual. All other collections occur one day later than usual this week.

Find 2019 holiday collection schedule calendars for each collection day at [www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash)



[www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash) • 240-314-8568

Visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/collectionday](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/collectionday) to find your collection day by address.



BE CART SMART ... Throwing out plastic bags, clothes or a garden hose? Please don't use the brown recycling cart – put them in the gray trash cart. Or, to find a nearby grocery store that accepts plastic bags for recycling, visit <http://bit.ly/howtorecyclebags>. Got a city cart that's falling apart? Call 240-314-8568. We'll replace it for you.



# City Takes Steps to Fight the Opioid Epidemic

Rockville is not immune to the crisis of opioid overdoses gripping communities across the United States, and the city is taking steps to fight back.

The city is sponsoring an awareness campaign that will kick off Thursday, March 7 with a program featuring Chris Herren, a former professional basketball player and recovery advocate who founded The Herren Project, a nonprofit serving individuals and families impacted by substance use disorder and the disease of addiction.

Additional efforts, later in the spring, will include a panel discussion of experts on the topic and training on how to respond to an opioid overdose.

Planning for the city's efforts includes elected officials, city staff, physicians, and community health leaders – a recognition that it will take an ongoing, communitywide, multiagency effort to raise awareness and combat the epidemic.

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Services reported 471 incidents, from July 2016 through June 2017, in which emergency responders administered

Narcan, a rescue drug used to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose, according to the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services.

The county health department is hosting free training in January on how to recognize and respond to an opioid overdose. The training, for individuals 18 and older, will include how to administer Narcan. It will be held 5:30-7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 24 at the DHHS offices at 401 Hungerford Drive. To register, call 240-777-1836 or email [overdoseresponseprogram@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:overdoseresponseprogram@montgomerycountymd.gov).

Meanwhile, the county DHHS recently issued 150 doses of Narcan to Rockville City Police Department officers. All RCPD officers will be trained in the use of the lifesaving prescription drug by the end of January. Once trained, each officer will be issued at least two doses of Narcan.

Look for more details about the March 7 kickoff and the city's ongoing efforts to fight opioid abuse in "Rockville Reports" and at [RockvilleReports.com](http://RockvilleReports.com) in the months ahead. ❄️



## City Academy Offers an Insider Look at Rockville Government Free, 6-Session Program Begins March 27

The Rockville City Academy returns this spring with a new opportunity to learn about the City of Rockville.

The free, six-session program begins Wednesday, March 27 with presentations from staff leaders who oversee the city's daily operations.

Topics will include:

- Rockville's form of government and how to be more involved.
- The many services provided by the Department of Public Works.
- Planning and the master plan process.
- Police and code enforcement, including neighborhood watch.
- The Department of Recreation and Parks, including a tour of city recreation facilities.

The highly interactive program seeks to empower new and existing community leaders to use their talents to participate in and serve their communities and the City of Rockville.

The program will be held at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., with the exception of the April 3 session, which will be a visit to the nearby Rockville City Police Department station at 2 W. Montgomery Ave. To find session dates and times, and register, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/academy](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/academy). Spaces are limited. Participants must be 16 or older and must be able to attend most classes.

For more information, contact Hjarman Cordero at [hcordero@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:hcordero@rockvillemd.gov) or 240-314-8344. ❄️

## New Program Partners Police and Public Through Security Cameras

A new program allows residents and business owners to voluntarily register their privately-owned video security camera systems with the Rockville City Police Department, giving police a valuable tool for investigating crime in the community.

Private residents are increasingly using video security systems to deter crime and capture evidence if a crime is committed, and video has proven to be one of the best methods for police to identify, apprehend and convict criminals.

Through the RockView security camera registration program, home or business owners use an online form to submit the address of a property where a security

camera is in use. This information provides city police a way to quickly identify security cameras that may have captured criminal activity when a crime is reported nearby.

"One of the most effective ways to solve crimes is through evidence captured on video security cameras," said Maj. Bob Rappoport, who commands the city police department's Special Operations Bureau. "Through the RockView program, residents can play a proactive role in keeping their neighborhoods safe."

When police identify a registered camera located near a reported crime, they will contact the camera owner and ask if the owner

*continued on pg. 8...*

## Be In-the-Know When It Snows

When winter weather strikes, turn to the city's website at [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov).

Closure and snow emergency information will be posted on the website, as well as through Facebook ([www.facebook.com/cityofrockville](http://www.facebook.com/cityofrockville)) and Twitter (@rockville411), and by signing up for Alert Rockville notifications at [www.rockvillemd.gov/alerts](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/alerts).

Removing snow from sidewalks, driveways and entrances is the responsibility of the property and/or business owner or occupant, unless a community association has assumed the responsibility. Snow and ice must be cleared from all paved sidewalks abutting a property as follows:

- Up to 3 inches: Clear within 24 hours.
- 3 to 9 inches: Clear within 48 hours.
- 10 inches or more: Clear within 72 hours.

If residents can do so, they should clear snow from around fire hydrants. To report a sidewalk that has not been cleared within the required timeframe, call 240-314-8330.

Seniors may request assistance with clearing snow from their property. Assistance is provided by volunteers and coordinated through the Rockville Senior Center. To volunteer or to request snow-shoveling assistance, call 240-314-8819 or the Senior Center Support Services office at 240-314-8810 or visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/winterweather](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/winterweather).

To learn about how city crews treat and plow roads, and for details on parking restrictions under Rockville's snow emergency ordinance, visit <https://rockvillereports.com/when-theres-a-snow-emergency-what-it-means-and-how-to-help>.



## Help With Carbon Monoxide Detectors Available to Seniors

Rockville's Senior Services Department can help Rockville residents age 60 and older find and install carbon monoxide detectors, following adoption by the Mayor and Council of an ordinance that requires the devices in some homes.

Exposure to carbon monoxide, which is colorless and odorless, can cause serious injury or death.

For help with information and referrals to purchase detectors, and assistance with installation, residents age 60 and older can contact Senior Services home maintenance coordinator Jerry Jones by email at [gjones@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:gjones@rockvillemd.gov) or by phone at 240-314-8819.

The city ordinance incorporates legislation passed by the county in October, which will go into effect July 1, to allow residents time to understand and comply with the new requirement. Since 2008, all new single-family dwellings and townhouses in Maryland have been required to install carbon monoxide detectors.

Specifically, the county bill requires owners of single-unit, two-unit and townhouse dwelling units with fuel-burning appliances or attached garages that were permitted before Jan. 1, 2008, to install and maintain carbon monoxide alarms.

## City to Issue Guidelines for Small Cell Antennas

Rockville is issuing guidelines for wireless carriers to follow as they install small cell antennas as part of a next-generation 5G network that delivers faster internet and increases cell phone service coverage.

A Federal Communications Commission order, which goes into effect Monday, Jan. 14, preempts many aspects of the city's ability to regulate the antennas. The order requires local governments to allow the antennas in the right of way; to act on applications to install antennas within 60 or 90 days, depending on the type of installation; and to publish aesthetic standards for the installation. It also regulates the fees that local governments can charge.

Small cell antennas can

be a maximum of 3 cubic feet with up to 28 cubic feet of other equipment associated with them. They are intended to provide additional coverage in areas with a high volume of cell traffic, or to fill in areas with marginal coverage.

The city considered a zoning text amendment to regulate the antennas but put the measure on hold pending legislation debated last fall by the Montgomery County Council. On Oct. 30, the County Council president canceled a vote on the legislation. Since then, city staff has been reviewing the order, consulting with telecommunications experts and following how other jurisdictions are reacting.

The guidelines will be published by Jan. 11 at [www.rockvillemd.gov/286](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/286). ❄️



**MORE NEWS, MORE OFTEN, ON YOUTUBE ...** Now on Rockville 11's YouTube channel ([www.youtube.com/cityofrockville](http://www.youtube.com/cityofrockville)): Take a look back at Rockville 11's best of 2018, including a new elementary school named for a civil rights activist, Rockville's own ninja warrior, the world championship Wizards.exe robotics team, a new police chief, a look at why a longtime resident and her famous son chose to call the city #MyRockville, and important news about voting by mail in the new year.

**NEW WEEKLY NEWSLETTER!**  
Sign up for weekly email at  
[www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters)





### Mansion Closed; Alternative Access Available From Avery Road ...

Glenview Mansion is expected to be closed through March to allow for construction of a new Americans with Disabilities Act-accessible parking lot.

While access to the mansion will be closed during construction, visitors can access the tennis courts, Croydon Creek Nature Center and Recreation Services building via Avery Road (off of Baltimore Road). Depending on weather and other factors, the mansion is expected to reopen in April.

### Certified Instructor? The Swim and Fitness Center is Hiring!

The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center is hiring part-time fitness instructors to teach classes this winter.

Instructors are sought for yoga, kickboxing and Bootcamp. Ideal candidates will have availability either early mornings, weekday evenings or Saturday mornings. Instructors work about 3-4 hours a week.

An additional perk offered to Rockville Swim and Fitness Center employees is free use of the facility for the employee and a guest. The center also offers staff training in CPR, first aid, lifeguarding and, on occasion, specialty courses at a significant discount.

Qualified candidates should go to [www.rockvillemd.gov/careers](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/careers) to apply. Certification is required.

Find out about Rockville Swim and Fitness Center pool schedules, seasonal hours, personal training opportunities and more at [www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter).

### Test Your Green Thumb with a Rockville Garden Plot

Yard too small for that spring harvest you've always dreamed of?

The City of Rockville has 159 garden plots, approximately 25-by-25 feet, available for rent at Woottons Mill Park for growing food and other plants.

The cost is \$80 per plot for nonresidents; Rockville residents pay \$55 per plot. Registration for the garden plot program opens Jan. 7. The season runs April 1-Nov. 11.

The city provides water spigots and mulch; gardeners are responsible for fencing, weed barriers, hoses, tools and other gardening supplies.

Registration forms can be found at [www.rockvillemd.gov/gardenplots](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/gardenplots). Call the Rockville Civic Center's main office number, 240-314-8660, for more information.

### Compensation Commission Members

*continued from pg. 3...*

of compensating the Mayor and Council, including how salary levels are determined and how frequently Rockville's elected officials are compensated.

The commission is required by ordinance to make its recommendation to the Mayor and Council by March 31. The election for Mayor and Council will take place in November.

For more information on the Compensation Commission's mission, and to view past recommendation reports, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/103](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/103).

Interested in serving on the commission? Fill out an expression of interest form at [www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions); call the City Clerk/Director of Council Operations at 240-314-8280; write to Mayor and Council, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850; or email [cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov).

## From Head to Toe, Seniors Can Stay Healthy in January

The Rockville Senior Center has several programs in January to help the 60-plus community stay healthy and fit, evaluate their brain health, protect themselves from foodborne illness and stay up on their feet.

Register for classes by calling 240-314-8810, at the Senior Center information desk, or by visiting [www.rockvillemd.gov/](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/) registration.

### Brain Health Assessment

A free workshop answers the question, "Is my memory normal or should I see my doctor?" with two sessions available on Tuesday, Jan. 8. The first session will be from 1-2 p.m., the second, 2-3 p.m.

A simple assessment test will be completed on laptops. Participants must have basic computer skills and speak English. There is time for a personal assessment and to be updated with the latest information on brain health. Register with course #8023 for the 1-2 p.m. session, and with course #8024 for the 2-3 p.m. time.

### Protect Yourself from Foodborne Illness

A free presentation that

will address the basics of food safety for seniors, whether preparing fruits and vegetables, meat, fish and poultry, or storing leftovers. The seminar, presented by Melanie Polk, director of the senior nutrition program at the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, will also address the latest in senior nutrition. Register with course #7399. The session will be held from 1-2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16.

### Best Foot Forward

Learn about common problems that can affect your mobility and comfort, from podiatrist David Engorn at this free program, from 1-2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 24. Includes a question-and-answer session. Register with course #7401.

### Stress Reduction/ Meditation

Learn the tools to focus, relax and come to a more peaceful sense of being, with time for meditation and discussion. Held Mondays, Jan. 7-March 25. Register with course #7400. The cost is \$30 for members, \$40 for non-members. ✚

## Kids Can Learn to Swim — and Stay Active — at the Swim Center

Looking for a weekday afterschool activity for your kid? How about learning a life skill to get children ready for summer fun in the pool? The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center offers dozens of learn-to-swim classes to keep your children, aged 4-11, active during the winter months.

Classes are available between 3:35-5:15 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and 4:35-6:15 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, starting the week of Jan. 7. While the Swim and Fitness Center

also offers weekend classes, weekday classes tend to be smaller, allowing for more individualized instruction.

Recreational swimming is available daily and daily admission costs \$6 per child and \$7 per adult. To see the pool schedule and find classes, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter), or call 240-314-8750 or email [swimcenter@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:swimcenter@rockvillemd.gov) for more information. Drop by the center at 355 Martins Lane for a tour and help registering. ✚



**LEARN MORE ABOUT  
THE CITY ON ROCKVILLE 11**  
[www.youtube.com/cityofrockville](http://www.youtube.com/cityofrockville)



**WHAT WE'RE CELEBRATING THIS MONTH ...** Happy New Year, Rockville! Of course, we're celebrating 2019, with its fresh slate. But we're also putting the kettle on — January is, among other recognitions, National Hot Tea Month. It's also a month dedicated to awareness of being a blood donor, braille literacy, mentoring, soup and hobbies. More seriously, it's National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, too.

## Meet a Rockville Employee:



### Melinda Norton

This month, "Rockville Reports" talks with Melinda Norton, who in October became the new supervisor of the Thomas Farm Community Center at 700 Falls Grove Road.

#### Tell us a bit about yourself.

I grew up in a small town outside of Flint, Michigan, and attended college at Central Michigan University where I earned a Bachelor of Science in conservation biology. I lived and worked in the Detroit-metro area for several years before moving to D.C. in 2006 for my job at the City of Rockville as assistant supervisor of Croydon Creek Nature Center. In October, I was promoted to supervisor of Thomas Farm Community Center. I love working for the city and feeling like I am part of the Rockville family. In my spare time, I love to travel the world, as well as spend time exploring the DMV and all it has to offer.

#### Tell us a little about your job and what you'll be doing.

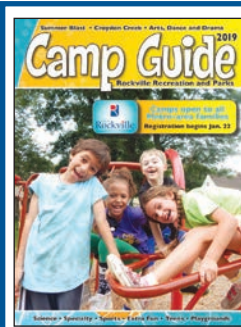
Running a large facility like Thomas Farm Community Center is a challenge. The days are never boring! Overseeing the day-to-day operation of the gym, fitness center and rental spaces, while also planning programming and events that happen at the center, is a big job. I'm really looking forward to learning

more about some of the old favorite events that take place at the center, while also bringing new and different ideas to the table to help keep the community engaged in the happenings at TFCC.

#### Tell us more about Thomas Farm Community Center.

Thomas Farm is turning 10 years old in March and we'd really like you to know more about us! We have a fantastic and affordable fitness center with hours that fit most everyone's schedule, along with opportunities to try out different sports, such as pickle ball, badminton, volleyball or basketball during our open gym times. We also have beautiful rental spaces that are perfect for birthday parties, showers, corporate gatherings and more! I like to think of our community center as a connection point in the neighborhood and am really looking forward to getting to know our current members better while spreading the word about TFCC and all that we have to offer. Watch for our 10-year anniversary open house that will be taking place in March, and if you are in the neighborhood, stop by and see for yourself what makes TFCC such an important part of the Rockville community.

Find out more about Thomas Farm's programs and activities from Rockville Life, the city's recreation guide, at [www.rockvillemd.gov/life](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/life). ✚



### Look Out For the 2019 Summer Camps Guide Programs for Kids and Teens!

Publishes Thursday, Jan. 17 in print and online at [www.rockvillemd.gov/life](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/life)

Available at city facilities and Rockville libraries. **Registration Begins Jan. 22.**



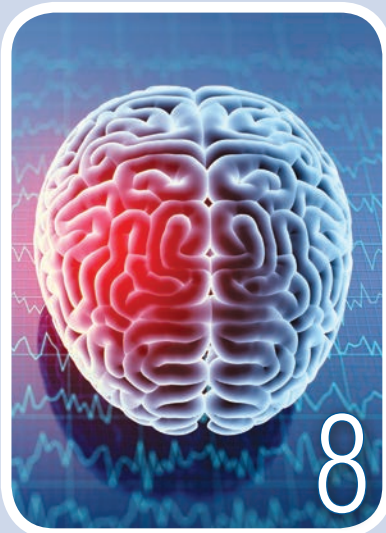
# January CALENDAR

**CC** Croydon Creek Nature Ctr., 852 Avery Rd., 240-314-8770.  
**GM** Glenview Mansion, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8660.  
**FSF** F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8690.

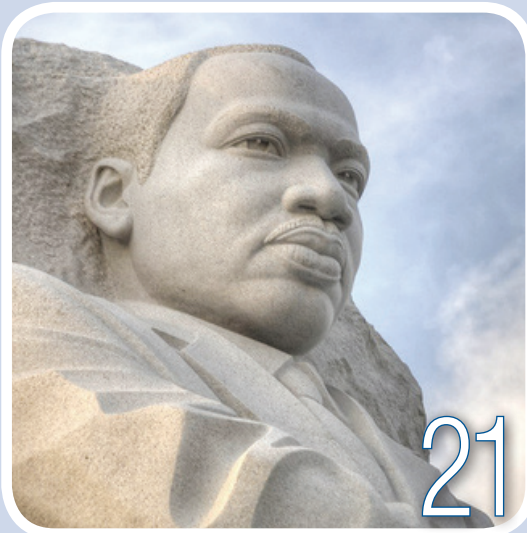
**LP** Lincoln Park Community Ctr., 357 Frederick Ave., 240-314-8780.  
**CH** Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., 240-314-5000.  
**SR** Rockville Senior Ctr., 1150 Carnation Dr., 240-314-8800.

## FACILITIES LEGEND:

**SFC** Rockville Swim and Fitness Ctr., 355 Martins Lane, 240-314-8750.  
**TF** Thomas Farm Community Ctr., 700 Falls Grove Dr., 240-314-8840.  
**TC** Twinbrook Comm. Rec. Ctr., 12920 Twinbrook Pkwy., 240-314-8830.



8



21



8



20

**1 CITY HALL AND FACILITIES CLOSED FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY.** See article on page 1.

**6 COMMUNITY MEETING WITH DISTRICT 17 LEGISLATORS.** Meet Sen. Cheryl Kagan, Del. Kumar Barve, Del. Jim Gilchrist, and Del.-elect Julie Palakovich Carr, 1:30-3 p.m. Free and open to the public. 506 S. Frederick Ave., Gaithersburg.

**7 RECEPTION TO CELEBRATE COUNCILMEMBER JULIE PALAKOVICH CARR** and thank her for her service. 5-7 p.m. See invite on page 1. **CH**

**7,28 FOOTNOTES IN AMERICAN HISTORY: JANUARY FIRSTS, PARTS I AND II.** Events that happened in the first month of the year. Delve into detail about the interesting men and women who influenced our nation, including Jack Dempsey, Neil Armstrong and Nellie Tayloe Ross. Register with course #7569 (part I) and #7570 (part II). 10:15-11:15 a.m. \$7 M/\$9 NM. **SR**

**8 TAX SEASON AND SCAM.** Attorney John Pontius of Pontius Tax Law discusses resolution options for taxpayers with unfiled tax returns, large unpaid tax bills, liens/levies and audit examinations. Register with course #7452. 10 a.m.-noon. Free. **SR**

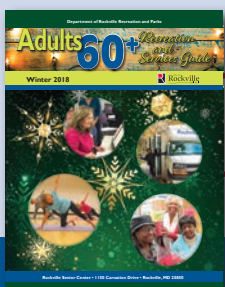
**8 BRAIN HEALTH ASSESSMENT.** A 15-20 minute free and private brain health assessment that answers the question, "Is my memory normal or should I see my doctor?" Two sessions available: 1-2 p.m. (course #8023) and 2-3 p.m. (course #8024). Call 240-314-8810 to register. Sign-ups are required. **SR**

**8 27TH ANNUAL ELKS NATIONAL HOOP SHOOT FREE THROW CONTEST.** 7 p.m., ages 8-9; 7:50 p.m., ages 10-11; 8:30 p.m., ages 12-13. Free. **TF**

**11 "CONVERSATION WITH DARYL DAVIS,"** a well-known local musician who has made a name for himself as both lecturer and author. Join him for a powerful presentation on his work with race relations and musical career. Register with course #7300. 10:30 a.m.-noon. \$6 M/\$8 NM. **SR**

**14 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT GRANTS,** applications due. For applications and additional information, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov) and search "Community Empowerment Grants."

**15 REGULAR BOX OFFICE HOURS RESUME** at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.



Rockville offers a variety of classes and programs each season. Sign up at [www.rockvillemd.gov/registration](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/registration). Enter the course number listed on the calendar entry to see more details and register.



R = Residents • NR = Nonresidents • MEM = Member • NM = Nonmember

FOR MORE INFO AND UP-TO-DATE EVENT LISTINGS: [WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV/CALENDAR.ASPX](http://WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV/CALENDAR.ASPX)

## Hearing on APFS Amendments

continued from pg. 3...

years, which is the test outlined in the city's APFS for all new residential developments. Because of those capacity limits, developers in those school clusters in Rockville would be unable to obtain approval for new residential projects. The proposal would potentially allow new residential development proposals in the Town Center and South Pike areas to be approved, if the revised school capacity test is met.

The Mayor and Council will also consider changes to the city's Comprehensive Transportation Review, which is the adequacy test for transportation capacity. The proposed change would allow analysis of intersections controlled by the county or state to be based on the standards of the relevant jurisdiction, rather than the city's standards.

The APFS and Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance were enacted by the Mayor and

Council in November 2005 as a way to determine if the city could accommodate new development and redevelopment while ensuring the provision of transportation, schools, fire and emergency services, and water and sewer services. (The Mayor and Council eliminated the fire and emergency services tests from the APFS in November 2017)

To watch the Mayor and Council's Dec. 17 meeting on the APFS, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter), and select the TV icon next to the agenda item.

To testify at the Jan. 22 meeting, call 240-314-8280 by 4 p.m. the day of the hearing or by submitting testimony in writing to city clerk@rockvillemd.gov or City Clerk's Office/Director of Council Operations, City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.

Rockville Mayor and Council meetings are broadcast live on channel 11 on county cable systems, live streamed at [www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11) and available a day after the meeting at [www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand). ❖

## Add Volunteering to Your New Year's To-do List

Want to do some good deeds in the new year? Rockville has dozens of opportunities available for teens and adults, from snow shoveling to mentoring to stream cleanups.

Whether your passion is helping others or the environment, you can use your free time to lend a hand. Here are some examples:

**Adopt a stream:** Adopt-A-Stream encourages volunteers to hold stream cleanups along Rockville streams. Even a small group of volunteers can remove large

amounts of debris from streams in a short period of time.

**Join a board or commission:** Consider joining a board, commission or committee to help provide recommendations to the Mayor and Council on issues that matter.

**Recreation and parks:** Be an inclusion companion for children with differing abilities or help with afterschool programs at one of Rockville's recreation centers.

Find more Rockville's volunteer opportunities at [www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer). ❖

## Mayor and Council Vacancy Process

continued from pg. 3...

mayor, the Mayor and Council clarified that councilmembers must choose a new mayor within a month of the va-

cancy occurring.

To watch the Dec. 17 meeting, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter) and select the TV icon next to the meeting listing, which also links to the meeting's agenda packet, with more details about the amendments. ❖



## Security Camera Registration

continued from pg. 5...

would examine their security video for potential leads in the investigation. The owner may accept or deny the request for assistance. If the owner accepts, and their camera captured pertinent information, police will arrange a convenient way to retrieve the information. The program is 100 percent voluntary and community members can opt-out at any time.

Information provided to the RCPD about camera systems will be for official police use only. Owners' personal information will not be distributed except as required by law or court order. Information submitted may be disclosed if requested per the Maryland Public Information Act.

For more information, and to register a camera, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/securitycamera](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/securitycamera). ❖

## City Hall Closures

continued from pg. 1...

resume regular hours Tuesday, Jan. 15.

Tickets are always available at [www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre).

- Lincoln Park, Thomas Farm and Twinbrook community centers are open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 31; closed Jan. 1; and open regular hours Jan. 2 and Jan. 21.
- The Rockville Senior Center, including the fitness room, is closed Sundays, will open 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 31, and will be closed Jan. 1 and 21.
- The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center will be open 6 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 31, closed Jan. 1 and open regular hours Jan. 21. Visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter) for lap and program schedules.

Parking will be free on Jan. 1 and 21 at city-owned meters.

For more information, call 240-314-5000 or visit [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov). ❖



**Help the Rockville City Police Department Take the Plunge**

**Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge**  
**Friday, Jan. 25**

**Sandy Point State Park, Annapolis**  
**Pledge in Support of Rockville's Plunge Team and Special Olympics Maryland**  
**Visit [bit.ly/RCPDPlunge2019](http://bit.ly/RCPDPlunge2019)**



### Questions, Concerns or Ideas?

Reach out to Rockville City Manager Rob DiSpirito at [rdspirito@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:rdspirito@rockvillemd.gov) or 240-314-8102.



## RedGate Golf Course to Close

The 18-hole, city-owned RedGate Golf Course will close Monday, Dec. 31, following an announcement by operator Billy Casper Golf that it will end its leasing relationship with the City of Rockville at the end of the calendar year.

The city has commissioned the National Golf Foundation to assess the course. A report based on that study, anticipated to be delivered to the Mayor and Council by the end

of January, will initiate a discussion by the Mayor and Council on RedGate's future.

Billy Casper Golf has leased and managed RedGate, at 14500 Avery Road, since January 2012. The course was designed and built in 1974 by course architect Therman Donovan.

The facility is expected to remain closed until the Mayor and Council can review their options and determine next steps. ❖



**THREE DECADES OF PUBLIC SERVICE ...** *The City of Rockville held its annual employee awards ceremony, Thursday, Dec. 6 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Ten Rockville employees were recognized with 30-year length-of-service awards. Pictured (L-to-R): Lisa Splaine, Recreation and Parks; Randy Maness, Steven Davis and Steve Sokol of Public Works; Maj. Bob Rappoport, Rockville City Police Department; Om Thukral, Information Technology; Kelvin Budd, City Manager's Office; Jan Golden, Recreation and Parks. Not pictured are Tammy Koniski and Sherri-Lou Hendry, Rockville City Police Department.*



**GOOD NEIGHBORS SALUTE GOOD NEIGHBORS ...** *Rockville's Mayor and Council presented Good Neighbor Awards on Dec. 3 to (L-to-R): Patrick Bengero, accepting on behalf of his father, Danilo Bengero; Ellen Stein; and Margaret Reiman. (Not pictured is Paul Fitzpatrick, who was unable to attend.) Learn more about these good neighbors and view video of the presentation at [www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter). Learn more about the awards at [www.rockvillemd.gov/goodneighbor](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/goodneighbor).*



## Save the Date to Celebrate Lunar New Year

*Celebration to Feature Dancers, Vocalists, Martial Artists and More*

Celebrate Rockville's Asian cultures with performances, crafts and cultural displays at the city's Lunar New Year celebration, from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16, at Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive.

The city is organizing the celebration in partnership with Rockville's Asian Pacific American Task Force. Multicultural performances will be from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Confirmed performers include:

- Cambodian dance by the Cambodian Buddhist Society.
- Modern Eastern and Western dance by Diana Dance Arts of Washington.
- Chinese folk dance and Mongolian dance by Golden Dance.
- A vocal performance by Lihui Zhang Vocal Studio.

- Martial arts by US Chinese Wushu Institute.
- Yong Han Lion Dance.

In its 11th year, the Lunar New Year celebration is a source of pride for the city's Asian community and an educational opportunity for neighbors to learn about Asian culture. The celebration will mark the year 4717, the Year of the Pig on the Chinese Zodiac calendar. One in three Rockville residents was born outside the United States and 54 percent of the city's foreign-born population was born in Asia, according to the city's planning department.

Interested in providing a Lunar New Year-themed activity or craft? Contact Amanda Knox at [aknox@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:aknox@rockvillemd.gov) for more information.

Find additional details, as they become available, at [www.rockvillemd.gov/lunarnewyear](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/lunarnewyear). ❖



Get Into It

**City Manager:** Rob DiSpirito  
**Deputy City Manager:** Jennifer Kimball  
**Director of Communication:** Marylou Berg  
**Public Information Specialists:** Cliff Cumber, Sean Sedam

**Web and Digital Manager:** Tatum B. Walker  
**Graphics and Printing:** Sylvia England, Eric Ferrell, Leon Porter, Lori Russler  
**Rockville II:** Hagop Balekjian, Craig Buchanan, Kathy Dantzler

**Rockville Reports** is the official publication of the City of Rockville, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850. It is delivered to all homes and businesses within Rockville's city limits. Any individuals with disabilities who would like to receive the information in this publication in another form may contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator at 240-314-8100; TTY 240-314-8137. Have an idea for "Rockville Reports"? Email [pio@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:pio@rockvillemd.gov).



**BACK IN THE DAY ...** *Rockville won a prestigious national award, according to the November 1965 edition of the "City of Rockville Newsletter" — the 1965 Honor Award for outstanding achievement in comprehensive planning, bestowed by the American Institute of Planners. So prestigious, in fact, the newsletter dedicated nearly its entire four pages to planning-related topics.*